

EXHIBIT

DATE

2/10/15

SB

SB 154

# Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS COMMITTEE:

**RE: SB 154** Revising the law requiring big game hunters to wear HUNTER ORANGE

**POSITION:** Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **ADAMANTLY**  
**OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- The wearing of hunter orange during the rifle big game season is a safety issue. With the number of hunters using our public lands it is vital that hunters be able to distinguish and recognize where other hunters are located in the field. Try going to the Ruby Valley on opening weekend or the Madison Valley when there are elk in the "flats", to understand the hunter population dynamics. For safety reasons, it is imperative that hunters be able to identify other hunters in the field! There is no valid reason to take the chance of a single shooting that could have been prevented if the hunter had been wearing hunter orange!!!
- Because of hunter orange, hunters are able to see where other hunters are located and can change their hunting route to respect another hunter's hunt. Most hunters will choose to hunt away from other hunters, which makes for a better quality experience for all.
- The wearing of hunter orange does not diminish a hunter's chances of sneaking up on big game. Wind, movement and failure to use the terrain available properly are the primary reasons that animals get spooked by hunters.
- If someone is shot that is not wearing hunter orange, that might have been prevented by wearing hunter orange, who will be held responsible??

Once again we would like to state our **ADAMANT OPPOSITION** for SB 154.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

[www.montanasportsmenalliance.com](http://www.montanasportsmenalliance.com)  
[www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com](http://www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com)  
P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840

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